

## SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1911: INVENTORY NO. 26; NOS. 29328 TO 30461.

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### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

Following a custom established in 1898, we have gone through this inventory of 1,134 introductions and singled out such as are likely to interest in an unusual way the plant experimenters of the country. This should not be taken to mean that the most important have been included, for experience has often demonstrated in this plant-introduction work the truth of the Biblical saying, "The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner."

Western Chinese Turkestan is a land of oases and deserts. It is accessible only to caravans which follow more or less well-defined trails across it, and this fact alone would make any plants coming from it of peculiar interest. When these have been collected by one who has such a wide acquaintance with our own arid and irrigated regions as has our explorer, Mr. Frank N. Meyer, they become of unusual value. His Chinese Turkestan collection in this inventory (Nos. 30042 to 30060, 30141 to 30153, 30308 to 30364, and 30393 to 30415) includes a large number of promising table-grape varieties; two extremely alkali-resistant species of Tamarix; a remarkable collection of poplars, among them the desert poplar (*Populus euphratica*, No. 30054), which should be adapted to our western plains; the Karagatch elm (No. 30060) from the oases of Sandju; a number of interesting willows; a large collection of sweet-kerneled and bitter-kerneled apricots, remarkable for their resistance to cold and alkali; several new forms, among them a white variety, of the Chinese plum-cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*), which Mr. Meyer thinks is deserving of consideration as a dry-land fruit; the celebrated Kutchu pear, a fine variety of the Chinese species (*Pyrus chinensis*); several noteworthy varieties of peaches, nectarines, prunes, plums, apples, and oriental pears; a yellow-flowered alfalfa grown near Pustan Terek at an altitude of 7,000 feet; a collection of the watermelons and muskmelons of the region; and a large-fruited form of the extremely drought and cold resistant oleaster, which plant has been found to be specially suited to our Great Plains area.